

**Submission  
No 186**

**INQUIRY INTO HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF  
KANGAROOS AND OTHER MACROPODS IN NEW SOUTH  
WALES**

**Name:** Ms Jan O'Leary

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I make this submission based on my own experience of living and walking in the bush in the Blue Mountains.

I have been a resident of the Blue Mountains for over 20 years and over that time early each morning I do approximately an hour's walk before breakfast on one of our local bush tracks. Frequently in the late afternoon I do the same. On weekends I would often do a bush walk a bit further afield in the Blue Mountains.

I was prompted to make this submission because when I first moved to the Mountains I would very frequently see or hear in the bush a kangaroo or wallaby but over the years this has become a rare experience. In fact, over the last year I have neither heard or seen a single one.

Clearly the fires have had a major impact on their populations. However, the decline, at least in my observations, had been happening before that. I can't attest to the reasons for the decline - shootings, habitat removal, drought, possibly all three - I can only report on what I have seen, or not seen and the change has been dramatic.

Driving through areas of Western Sydney where new housing developments have been built, one cannot fail to observe the carnage on the new roads that obviously have cut through macropod habitat. It is too late for those animals but one would hope that measures could be taken in future to prevent this inevitable slaughter from occurring.